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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **CANCEL** claims 1-69, without disclaimer or waiver of the subject matter claimed therein. Applicant specifically reserves the right to pursue these or other claims directed to this subject matter in one or more other applications.

Please **ADD** new claims 70-113, as indicated below.

Claims 1-69 (cancelled).

70. (newly added) A method for updating software installed on a user station, the software including multiple software entities, including an updating software entity which facilitates obtaining updates from a remote source via a communications network including the Internet, the method comprising:

upon occurrence of a prescribed event, the updating software entity checking for the availability of an update for at least one of the software entities, wherein the updating software entity can be running in the background at the user station while at least one of the other software entities is running in the foreground at the user station;

if the update is available, notifying a user at the user station of the availability of the update;

requesting confirmation from the user to obtain the update; and

obtaining the update from the remote source via the communications network in response to the user confirmation.

71. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 70, wherein the remote source comprises an update distribution service.

72. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 71, wherein the update distribution service includes a plurality of servers.

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73. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 70, wherein the obtained update comprises a revision.

74. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 70, wherein the obtained update comprises an update for the updating software entity.

75. (newly added) A method for updating software installed on a user station by obtaining updates from a remote source via a communications network including the Internet, the method comprising:

upon occurrence of a prescribed event, checking for the availability of an update for the software, wherein the checking can be performed transparently to a user at the user station;

if the update is available, notifying the user at the user station of the availability of the update;

requesting confirmation from the user to obtain the update;

obtaining the update from the remote source via the communications network in response to the user confirmation to obtain the update;

requesting confirmation from the user to install the obtained update; and

installing the obtained update in response to the user confirmation to install the obtained update.

76. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 75, wherein the remote source comprises an update distribution service.

77. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 76, wherein the update distribution service includes a plurality of servers.

78. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 75, wherein the prescribed event comprises the occurrence of a scheduled time.

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79. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 75, wherein the prescribed event comprises the lapse of a prescribed time interval.

80. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 75, wherein the prescribed event comprises a user action.

81. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 75, wherein the prescribed event comprises a software action.

82. (newly added) A method for updating software installed on a user station, the software including multiple software entities, including an updating software entity which facilitates obtaining updates from a remote source via a communications network including the Internet, the method comprising:

upon occurrence of a prescribed event, the updating software entity checking for the availability of an update for at least one of the software entities, wherein the updating software entity can be running in the background at the user station while at least one of the other software entities is running in the foreground at the user station;

if the update is available, notifying a user at the user station of the availability of the update;

requesting confirmation from the user to obtain the update;

obtaining the update from the remote source via the communications network in response to user confirmation to obtain the update;

requesting confirmation from the user to install the obtained update; and

installing the obtained update in response to the user confirmation to install the update.

83. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 82, wherein the remote source comprises an update distribution service.

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84. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 83, wherein the update distribution service includes a plurality of servers.

85. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 82, wherein the obtained update comprises a revision.

86. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 82, wherein the obtained update comprises an update for the updating software entity.

87. (newly added) A method for updating software installed on a user station, the software including multiple software entities, including a self-updating software entity which facilitates obtaining updates from a remote source via a communications network including the Internet, the method comprising:

upon occurrence of a prescribed event, the self-updating software entity checking for the availability of an update for at least one of the software entities, wherein the self-updating software entity can be running in the background at the user station while at least one of the other software entities is running in the foreground at the user station; if the update is available, notifying a user at the user station of the availability of the update;

requesting confirmation from the user to obtain the update;

obtaining the update from the remote source via the communications network in response to user confirmation to obtain the update; and

enabling updating of the self-updating software entity without requiring user confirmation to update the self-updating software entity.

88. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 87, wherein the remote source comprises an update distribution service.

89. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 88, wherein the update distribution service includes a plurality of servers.

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90. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 87, wherein the obtained update comprises a revision.

91. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 87, wherein the prescribed event comprises the occurrence of a scheduled time.

92. (newly added) A method for updating software installed on a user station, the software including multiple software entities, including a self-updating software entity which facilitates obtaining updates from a remote source via a communications network including the Internet, the method comprising:

upon occurrence of a prescribed event, the self-updating software entity checking for the availability of an update for at least one of the software entities, wherein the self-updating software entity can be running in the background at the user station while at least one of the other software entities is running in the foreground at the user station;

if the update is available, notifying a user at the user station of the availability of the update;

requesting confirmation from the user to obtain the update;

obtaining the update from the remote source via the communications network in response to the user confirmation to obtain the update;

requesting confirmation from the user to install the obtained update;

installing the obtained update in response to the user confirmation to install the update; and

enabling updating of the self-updating software entity without requiring user confirmation to update the self-updating software entity.

93. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 92, wherein the remote source comprises an update distribution service.

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94. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 93, wherein the update distribution service includes a plurality of servers.

95. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 92, wherein the obtained update comprises a revision.

96. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 92, wherein the prescribed event comprises the occurrence of a scheduled time.

97. (newly added) A method for updating software installed on a user station by obtaining updates from a remote source via a communications network including the Internet, the method comprising:

upon occurrence of a prescribed event, checking for the availability of an update, wherein the checking can be performed transparently to a user at the user station;

if the update is available, obtaining the update from the remote source via the communications network;

requesting confirmation from the user to install the obtained update; and

installing the obtained update in response to the user confirmation.

98. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 97, wherein the remote source comprises an update distribution service.

99. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 98, wherein the update distribution service includes a plurality of servers.

100. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 97, wherein the obtained update comprises a revision.

101. (newly added) A method for updating software installed on a user station, the software including multiple software entities, including an updating software entity

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which facilitates obtaining updates from a remote source via a communications network including the Internet, the method comprising:

upon occurrence of a prescribed event, the updating software entity checking for the availability of an update for at least one of the software entities, wherein the updating software entity can be running in the background at the user station while at least one other software entity is running in the foreground at the user station;

if the update is available, obtaining the update from the remote source via the communications network;

requesting confirmation from the user to install the obtained update; and
installing the obtained update in response to the user confirmation.

102. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 101, wherein the remote source comprises an update distribution service.

103. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 102, wherein the update distribution service includes a plurality of servers.

104. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 101, wherein the obtained update comprises a revision.

105. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 101, wherein the obtained update comprises an update for the updating software entity.

106. (newly added) A method for updating software installed on a user station, the software including multiple software entities, including a self-updating software entity which facilitates obtaining updates from a remote source via a communications network including the Internet, the method comprising:

upon occurrence of a prescribed event, the self-updating software entity checking for the availability of an update for at least one of the software entities, wherein the self-

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updating software entity can be running in the background at the user station while at least one other software entity is running in the foreground at the user station;

if the update is available, obtaining the update from the remote source via the communications network;

requesting confirmation from the user to install the obtained update;

installing the obtained update in response to the user confirmation; and

enabling the updating of the self-updating software entity without requiring user confirmation to update the self-updating software entity.

107. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 106, wherein the remote source comprises an update distribution service.

AI 108. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 107, wherein the update distribution service includes a plurality of servers.

109. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 106, wherein the obtained update comprises a revision.

110. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 106, wherein the prescribed event comprises the occurrence of a scheduled time.

111. (newly added) A method for updating software installed on a user station by installing updates received from remote sources via a communications network including the Internet, the method comprising:

communicating with at least one of the remote sources to check for the availability of an update, based on a first condition;

notifying a user at the user station of the availability of an update, and seeking input from the user to obtain the update;

communicating with at least one of the remote sources to receive the update in response to the user input;

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requesting confirmation from the user to install the received update; and
installing the received update, based on a second condition that is different from
the first condition.

112. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 111, wherein the at least
one of the remote sources comprises an update distribution service.

113. (newly added) The method as set forth in claim 112, wherein the update
distribution service includes a plurality of servers.
